

### **REMARKS**

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

### **PENDING CLAIMS**

Claims 1-20 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-15 and 18-20 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

### **ALLOWED CLAIMS**

Claims 10-14 have been allowed in the application, as indicated within the section number "7" on page 6 of the Office Action. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

### **REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIM(S)**

Claims 17 and 20 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the first paragraph on page 7 of the Office Action. Features/limitations of allowable claim 17 have been incorporated into

independent claim 15, thereby rendering the rewritten independent claim 15 and any claims dependent therefrom allowable, i.e., all of presently-pending claims 15 and 18-20 should be allowable as presently rewritten. In view of the incorporation of the features/limitations of claims 16-17 into independent claim 15, such allowable dependent claims have been canceled (without prejudice or disclaimer) to avoid redundant claims. Reconsideration and renewal of the allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of allowable subject matter.

**35 USC '103 REJECTION - OBSOLETE VIA CLAIM AMENDMENT**

The 35 USC '103 rejection of claims 15-16 and 18-19 as being unpatentable over Ueno et al. (U.S. Patent 6946950 B1) in view of MacLellan et al. (U.S. Patent 5929779) is respectfully traversed, but the present amendment of such claims (without prejudice or disclaimer) to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible, has rendered such rejection(s) obsolete, and thus gratuitous traversal arguments concerning the rejection(s) are omitted for brevity. Further discussions/arguments concerning such rejection(s) are left for the future if/when appropriate. Based upon the following, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejection(s) are respectfully requested.

The above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that the rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject

matter, but is merely use of a procedural approach to obtain a patent (without prejudice or disclaimer) on ones of the allowable claims as quickly as possible.

**ALL CLAIMS IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE**

In view of the fact that all prior art rejected claims have been amended to include the features/limitations indicated as being allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all presently pending claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

**EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE**

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

**RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope

or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

### **CONCLUSION**

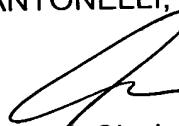
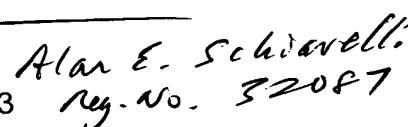
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR '1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 520.44597X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims  
is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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